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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A reactive dye compound comprising:
 - (a) at least one chromophore moiety;
 - (b) at least one nitrogen-containing heterocycle;
 - (c) a linking group, L, to link each chromophore moiety to each nitrogen-containing heterocycle;characterised in that at least one nitrogen-containing heterocycle is substituted with at least one Y group wherein Y is a phosphonate or a borate derivative, ~~under the proviso that if the phosphonate derivative is selected from phosphonates having the formula:~~
wherein the phosphonate derivative is selected from one of:
-O-(PO)(OH)C(CH₃)(OH)(PO)(OH)₂ and -O-(P=O)(OH)R' wherein R' is any suitable nucleophilic moiety, under the proviso that R' is not OH;
wherein L is selected from the group consisting of NR, N(C=O)R, and N(SO₂)R;

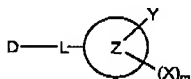
wherein R is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl, which further can be substituted by halogen, hydroxyl, cyano, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, C₂-C₅ alkoxycarbonyl, carboxyl, sulfamoyl, sulfo, sulfato.
2. (Currently amended) A reactive dye compound according to Claim 1 wherein Y is ~~derived from a phosphonate, preferably aceto diposphonic acid, derivative selected from one of:~~ -O-(PO)(OH)C(CH₃)(OH)(PO)(OH)₂ and -O-(P=O)(OH)R' wherein R' is any suitable nucleophilic moiety, under the proviso that R' is not OH.
3. (Previously presented) A reactive dye compound according to Claim 1 wherein Y is -O-(PO)(OH)C(CH₃)(OH)(PO)(OH)₂.

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4. (Previously presented) A reactive dye compound according to Claim 1 wherein the nitrogen-containing heterocycle is selected from triazine, pyrimidine, quinoxaline, phthalazine, pyridazone and pyrazine.
5. (Previously presented) A reactive dye compound according to Claim 1 wherein the nitrogen-containing heterocycle is selected from triazine, pyrimidine or quinoxaline.
6. (Previously presented) A reactive dye compound according to Claim 1 wherein the nitrogen-containing heterocycle is selected from triazine and pyrimidine.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently amended) A reactive dye compound according to Claim ~~7~~ 1 wherein the linking group is NR.
9. (Original) A reactive dye compound according to Claim 8 wherein R is H or C1-C4 alkyl, preferably H.
10. (Previously presented) A reactive dye compound according to Claim 1 wherein the nitrogen-containing heterocycle is additionally substituted with one or more X substituents, wherein X is independently selected from Y and halogen.

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11. (Currently amended) A reactive dye having the formula (I):



wherein D is a chromophore group;

L is a linking moiety selected from NR, N(C=O)R, N(SO₂)R;

wherein R is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl, wherein said alkyl can be further substituted by halogen, hydroxyl, cyano, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, C₂-C₅ alkoxy carbonyl, carboxyl, sulfamoyl, sulfo, and sulfato;

Z is a nitrogen-containing heterocycle;

Y is a phosphonate or borate derivative, ~~under the proviso that if the phosphonate derivative is selected from phosphonates having the formula:~~ wherein the phosphonate derivative is selected from one of: -O-(PO)(OH)C(CH₃)(OH)(PO)(OH)₂ and -O-(P=O)(OH)R' wherein R' is any suitable nucleophilic moiety, under the proviso that R' is not OH;

X is selected from the group consisting of phosphonate derivatives, borate derivatives, thio-derivatives, halogen, amines, alkoxy groups, carboxylic acid groups, CN, N₃ and quaternized nitrogen derivatives, Q⁺; and;

m is 1 or 2[.];

and salts and esters thereof.

12. (Previously presented) A method of dyeing a cellulosic substrate, comprising contacting the cellulosic substrate with a compound according to Claim 1, wherein the cellulosic substrate is preferably cotton.

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13. (Previously presented) A method of dyeing wool, comprising contacting the wool with a compound according to Claim 1.
14. (Previously presented) A method of dyeing a polyamide substrates, comprising contacting the polyamide substrate with a compound according to Claim 1, wherein the polyamide substrate is preferably nylon.
15. (Previously presented) A method of dyeing silk, comprising contacting the silk with a compound according to Claim 1.
16. (Previously presented) A method of dyeing keratin, comprising contacting the keratin with a compound according to Claim 1.
17. (Previously presented) A method of dyeing leather, comprising contacting the leather with a compound according to Claim 1.
18. (Previously presented) Process for the preparation of a compound according to Claim 1 comprising the steps of reacting a first starting material with a second starting material, the first starting material comprising at least one chromophore and at least one nitrogen-containing heterocycle which is attached to the chromophore group via a linking group L, the second starting material being a compound containing a Y group which is a phosphonate or borate group as defined hereinabove.
19. (Original) Process according to Claim 18 wherein the second starting material is aceto phosphonic acid.

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20. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 18 wherein the process is carried out at a pH of from about 2 to about 8, preferably from about 3 to about 5.
21. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 18 wherein the second starting material is added to the first starting material slowly, preferably dropwise, preferably over several hours, preferably 1 to 5 hours, more preferably 1 to 3 hours.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Currently amended) A dye composition comprising the compound of Claim 1 ~~or the product of Claim 18.~~
24. (Original) A dye composition according to Claim 23 wherein the composition is in the form of a solid mixture and further comprises an acid buffer.
25. (Previously presented) A dye composition according to Claim 23 wherein the composition is in the form of a liquid and further comprises water and an acid buffer, wherein the dye composition preferably has a pH from about 2 to about 8.
26. (Previously presented) A dye composition according to Claim 23 wherein the composition is in the form of a paste and further comprises water, thickening agent and an acid buffer, wherein the dye composition preferably has a pH from about 2 to about 8.
27. (Previously presented) A dye composition according to Claim 25 wherein the pH is preferably from about 2 to about 3.